

REMARKS

Claims 6 has been amended. Claims 11-17 have been added. Thus, Claims 6-17 are currently pending.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

On the merits, claims 6 -10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Stikkelorum. Applicants amended independent claim 1 to more clearly define the present invention. The newly added independent claim 15 comprises similar limitations.

According to the amended independent claims and as shown in Figure 1 of the present application, a printing machine comprises, for example, a plurality of drive systems each comprising a control functional unit. Associated control computers are coupled through a first network with these control functional units to provide a low level control of non-time critical functions. In addition, a second real-time network is provided which couples the control functional units to exchange highly time-critical data and parameters as well as synchronization signals.

Stikkelorum neither discloses nor suggests such an arrangement. In fact, Stikkelorum merely provides for a standard network coupling all elements of a printing system. Thus, Applicants believe that the present independent claims are allowable over the prior art.

The dependent claims include all the limitations of the respective independent claims and are therefore patentable at least to the extent of the independent claims. As stated above, Applicant believes that the independent claims are not obvious in light of the prior art. Thus, applicant respectfully requests to defers any arguments with respect to the dependent claims at this time.

Summary


In light of the above remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection is respectfully requested. It is further submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of the same is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the agent of record by telephone or facsimile.

Applicants do not believe that any other fees are due at this time; however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to this document, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from Deposit Account No. 02-0383, (*formerly Baker & Botts, L.L.P.*) Order Number 071308.0171.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS, L.L.P.

Date: May 4, 2005

By: 
Andreas H. Grubert
(Limited recognition 37 C.F.R. §10.9)
AGENT FOR APPLICANTS

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
CUSTOMER ACCOUNT NO. **31625**
512.322.2545
512.322.8319 (Fax)